

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for rolling a metal strip in a skin-pass rolling stand for reducing the metal strip's thickness wherein the strip enters and exits the rolling stand at a determined velocity with the strip being under tension, comprising setting the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand and the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand independently of the tension in the metal strip; and setting a roll nip in the skin-pass rolling stand as a function of the tension in the metal strip both upstream and downstream of the rolling stand.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the metal strip is reduced by between about 0.1% and 5%.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of the metal strip is reduced by between about 0.1% and 1%.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising setting the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand and the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand by the ratio of a desired thickness of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand to the thickness of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising controlling the setting of the strip entry velocity by a controller for controlling the setting of the strip exit velocity, feeding to said controller to which a set value for the respective, entry and exit velocities ~~is fed to the controller, said and further wherein the~~ entry set value ~~for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand and said~~ exit the set value ~~for the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand are being~~ set as a ratio of the a desired thickness of the metal strip when it exits the

skin-pass rolling stand to ~~the thickness of the metal strip~~ its thickness when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, further comprising correcting the set value for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand as a function of a measured value for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand and of a measured value for the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising correcting the set value for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand as a function of a temporal mean of measured values for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand and of a temporal mean of measured values for the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A skin-pass rolling stand for use in rolling a metal strip in accordance with the method of claimed 1, comprising a ~~means for setting the strip entry velocity independently of the tension in the metal strip, and a means for setting the strip exit velocity independently of the tension in the metal strip~~ adjusting means and a strip exit velocity adjusting means, said adjusting means adjusting the entry and exit velocities, respectively, independently of the tension in the metal strip entering and exiting the rolling stand; and further comprising a tension control for adjusting a roll nip of a roll in the rolling stand as a function of tension in the metal strip.